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CNO Visits USS MONTEREY (CG 61)

By: USS Monterey Public Affairs

NORFOLK, VA –Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen, accompanied by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Joe R. Campa, Jr., addressed approximately 350 sailors aboard USS Monterey (CG 61) May 1. Monterey recently returned to Norfolk after six months of operating in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Mullen expressed his pride and gratitude for Monterey's outstanding performance and professionalism demonstrated throughout the six months of intense operations. "I am well aware of what you all have accomplished and all that you have done," said he said. "Your service, professionalism and dedication were a major part of the success of the overall mission."

"It was great to hear the CNO speak directly to us," said QMSN Stephen Heiskell. "I know what we did on the deployment was important, but this really drove it home as to just how important the success of our mission was."

While deployed, Monterey served as the flagship for Standing NATO Maritime Group Two, commanded by Rear Admiral Michael Groothusen, and supported Operation Active Endeavor. Monterey also conducted boarding operations, provided the recognized maritime and air pictures for the Commander, Sixth Fleet Area of Responsibility. Additionally she played a major role in Operation Peaceful Summit, providing maritime security and air defense to world leaders, including the President of the United States for the G-8 Summit held in Riga, Latvia. Monterey visited 10 foreign ports and safely navigated over 30,000 NM while conducting the operations.

USS Monterey is commanded by Capt. Robert Oldani, and is currently operationally ready for short notice surge operations in support of the Fleet Readiness Plan.

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NOTE: Media partners desiring more information about this event should contact the Second Fleet Public Affairs Office at (757) 444-5050 (x7369) or email c2fpao@secondflt.navy.mil.